

INTRODUCING THE STUDENT VOTER OPPORTUNITY TO ENCOURAGE REGISTRATION (STUDENT VOTER) ACT OF 2008

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 2008*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Student Voter Opportunity To Encourage Registration Act of 2008, along with my colleague Representative STEVEN LATOURETTE. The foundation of America's democracy lies in broad participation and civic engagement. From the Civil Rights Amendments, to women's suffrage, to the abolition of the poll tax and finally the ratification of the Twenty-Sixth Amendment, this nation has embarked on a difficult but steady march toward becoming a more inclusive nation.

I believe that the Student VOTER Act is a continuation of that progress, because it provides a pathway to participation for America's youth.

The need for this bipartisan bill is clear. Despite a small rise in youth voting in the 2004 presidential election, young voters are far less likely to vote than older voters. In the 2004 presidential election, only 47 percent of 18–24 year old citizens voted, compared to 66 percent of citizens 25 and older. This marked the eighth straight presidential contest in which less than half of young Americans voted.

While there are a number of factors that contribute to this trend, one is clearly the fact many college students are first-time voters and often are unfamiliar with how to register. In some states, including my own state of Illinois, first-time voters must register in person in order to cast an absentee ballot. For students who attend college outside of their home state or who do not have access to transportation, those requirements present a tremendous burden that is costly and difficult to overcome.

The Student VOTER Act offers a straightforward solution: it requires colleges and universities that receive federal funds to register students. The Student VOTER Act does this by amending the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to designate colleges and universities that receive federal funds as voter registration agencies.

This legislation will not present a substantial burden to our Nation's universities. In fact, many are already providing this service for students. For example, even before orientation begins, Brown University in Rhode Island provides its students with voter registration materials not only for Rhode Island, but also for each student's home state.

Unfortunately, too many colleges and universities have failed to follow Brown's lead. I am introducing this legislation today to spur more universities to make registration widely available to America's youngest voters.

I would also like to thank my friend Matthew Segal, the Executive Director of the Student Association for Voter Empowerment. This bill would not exist today were it not for his dedication to enhancing voter access for America's youth.

I urge all of my colleagues to cosponsor this important legislation.

IN HONOR OF THE DECATUR CENTRAL BASEBALL TEAM, 2008 INDIANA STATE CHAMPIONS

**HON. ANDRÉ CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 2008*

Mr. CARSON. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the Decatur Central High School baseball team. The Hawks were crowned Division 4A Indiana State Baseball Champions on June 14, 2008 at Indianapolis's Victory Field. Decatur Central captured the state title with a 7–3 victory over Fort Wayne's Homestead High School.

The boys worked tirelessly throughout the season and compiled an overall record of 29–7. This is the first state championship for a Decatur Central team.

This year's team was led by seniors Harmon Cooper, Zack Deakin, Anthony Eldridge, Adam Kirk, Shawn Mattingly, Jeff Pace, and Isaac Pruitt. Other members of the team include juniors Jake Gharst, Aaron Gregory, Andrew Kinnaird, Nate Kress, Pat Sharpe, Kenny Rackley, Nick Stoia, Taylor Tijerina and sophomores Eric Howell, Brent Ledford, Shane Muse, Ronnie Shelton, Austin Sprinkle and Zach Weldon. Top performers this year included Nick Stoia, who set a school record for runs batted in and Andrew Kinnaird, who set a school record for doubles.

This team's achievements would not have been possible without the support of their coaches and school officials. Head Coach Phil Webster, in his 23rd season of coaching at Decatur Central, and his staff served as excellent teachers and mentors to the young men they were charged with coaching. Additionally, all the Decatur Central fans, and in particular the always energetic student body, should be recognized for their enthusiasm and pride in their team.

The 2008 Decatur Central baseball team has secured a place in the storied history of Indiana high school sports. I offer my congratulations to the members of the team, the coaching staff, the school, and the greater Indianapolis community on their accomplishments throughout the season.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOHN M. McHUGH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 2008*

Mr. McHUGH. Madam Speaker, I was on a leave of absence for a family medical situation on July 29, 2008, and I missed several rollcall votes. At this time, I wish to note that had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 534, "yea" on rollcall No. 535, and "yea" on rollcall No. 536.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JERRY WELLER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 2008*

Mr. WELLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD votes I

would have cast had I been present for rollcall votes 534 through 536. I was absent on Tuesday, 29 July due to personal reasons.

If I were present I would have voted, "aye" on rollcall vote 534, "aye" on rollcall vote 535, and "aye" on rollcall vote 536.

THE DEFINITION OF HONESTY, INTEGRITY AND HONOR: CHAIRMAN CHARLES B. RANGEL AND PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 2008*

Ms. KILPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise in unequivocal, unapologetic, and unwavering support of one of the finest individuals who set the standard for statesmanship, excellence and principle in the U.S. House of Representatives, none other than the gentleman from the 15th Congressional District of New York, one of the founders of the Congressional Black Caucus, Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, Congressman CHARLES B. RANGEL. Congressman RANGEL, whom I am proud to count as not only one of my Congressional mentors, but also as a personal friend, has to take time from his schedule of, among other things, ensuring that all children have access to health care, ensuring that cigarettes are regulated, and that Congress figures out a way to pay for the education of the women and men who are fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan, to defend himself against a charge levied in a newspaper that questions his very integrity, dignity and honor.

I was unavoidably detained, and I did not vote on this motion. If I had been present, I would have voted "aye" in favor of the motion to table.

It is without a single scintilla of doubt these charges against the Chairman, charges registered by Chairman RANGEL himself with the House Ethics Committee, will arrive at one conclusion—the conclusion of innocence. Chairman RANGEL's record of almost four decades of service, of dedication, of devotion not only to his constituents, but of the integrity of the institution of Congress, has earned him the right to a fast and fair examination and I would add exoneration of these charges. Chairman RANGEL, along with my fellow Michigan colleague JOHN CONYERS, JR., is the remaining founders of the Congressional Black Caucus who serve with us today. For the remainder of the 110th Congress, Chairman RANGEL will have my personal support and assistance as he wages what will be a victorious fight against these charges.

What describes Chairman RANGEL? Here are a few: outstanding attorney. One of the finest politicians in the history of New York. Civil rights worker. Founder of the most influential political organization in the history of Congress. The first African American Chairman of the powerful Ways and Means Committee. Husband. Father. Colleague. And finally, friend.

As I continue to pray for Chairman RANGEL's continued good health, prosperity and fortune, I look forward to a fair and expeditious consideration of these charges by the House Ethics Committee. Chairman RANGEL's importance to this body, as the leader of the Ways and